## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hyun-Doo SHIN, ET AL.

Application No: 09/497,520

Filed: February 4, 2000

For:    COLOR IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND APPARATUS THEREOF

Group Art Unit:  UNKNOWN

Examiner:  UNKNOWN

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C.  20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 2, line 21, after "Before" delete "the"; same line; after "(b)" insert --is performed--;

delete lines 27-30.

On page 3, line 8, after "groups" delete "are obtained".

On page 11, line 16, after "quantization" delete "is".

IN THE CLAIMS:

**Please delete claims 23 and 28 without prejudice.**

1. (Amended)  A color image processing method comprising the steps of:

(a) sorting image pixels according to [the] a color distance between [the] image pixels and a central pixel;

(b) grouping the sorted pixels into groups in which [the] a difference in [the] intragroup color distance is minimum and [the] a difference in [the] intergroup color difference is maximum; and